

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are amended to more clearly recite antecedent basis in each claim, and claims 10-17 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Loney in the April 1, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 10-17 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Sugawa

The Office Action rejects claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sugawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0119298). By this Amendment, claims 10-12 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Nishio

The Office Action rejects claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishio et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,218). By this Amendment, claims 10-17 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

C. JP 2002-236203

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-236203 (JP '203). By this Amendment, claims 10-17 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites the feature "cooling a molten thermoplastic resin base of a thermoplastic resin to obtain a flexible thermoplastic resin base having a surface temperature not higher than a glass transition point of the thermoplastic resin and an internal temperature not lower than the glass transition point thereof." JP '203 does not disclose at least these claim features and these features are not inherent in the process disclosed in JP '203.

The Office Action acknowledges that JP '203 does not disclose this feature. However, the Office Action asserts that the materials disclosed in JP '203 are the same ones used as the layers as those disclosed by the Applicants, as thus, the features of the glass transition temperature are disclosed by JP '203. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As the present disclosure describes, as a consequence of the advantages of at least this feature, even when a thermoplastic resin base is thick and rigid at a working temperature, the thermoplastic resin base can be bent so as to closely conform to the shape of the radiation-curable resin shaping roller, and the radiation-curable resin formed on the thermoplastic resin base can be shaped precisely. As a result, the claimed method provides rigid optical sheets with an optical element having a sharp surface shape, such as a Fresnel lens or a prism structure, that can be continuously manufactured at a high rate of production and with low costs. See specification at page 4, line 25 - page 5, line 5.

The temperature conditions of a material are not only derived from the type of material, but also, for example, from the shape of the optical elements to be formed and the size of the optical elements to be formed. Simply because JP '203 discloses polymethyl methacrylate, does not mean that the feature of "a flexible thermoplastic resin base having a

surface temperature not higher than a glass transition point of the thermoplastic resin and an internal temperature not lower than the glass transition point thereof" is disclosed. This feature is determined by more than just the type of resin, but also at least by the shape of the optical elements to be formed and the size of the optical elements to be formed. An unlimited number of temperature conditions exist for a single material. Therefore, the claimed properties are not solely attributable to the type of material, and thus, JP '203 does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1.

As JP '203 does not disclose each and every feature of claim 1 and each and every feature of claim 1 is not inherent in the disclosure of JP '203, JP '203 does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-9 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, are also not anticipated by JP '203. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:ABF/kxs

Attachment:

Petition of Extension of Time

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